

## **IF IT'S BROKEN, FIX IT!**

### **SWITCHING FROM THE ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Remember that in the Preamble to the Constitution, one of the goals of the new government was to "form a more perfect union." This phrase was in direct response to the problems the country was having under the Articles of Confederation. The Articles of Confederation did NOT form a "perfect union" or even unite the states very much at all. Under the Articles of Confederation, each state still wanted to act like its own separate country. Therefore, the important fact to remember about our U.S. Constitution was that it was a direct response to the problems created by the weak central government under the Articles of Confederation. Even more significantly, the purpose of our Constitution is to protect the rights of citizens by providing rules that the national and state governments must follow.

<i><b>Issue</b></i>	<i><b>Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation (Confederate gov't)</b></i>	<b>→</b>	<i><b>How the Constitution Fixed the Weaknesses (Federal gov't)</b></i>
<b>FORM OF GOVERNMENT</b>	Articles created a "league of friendship" between the states	<b>→</b>	<b>Constitution created a federal system of government (national government and state governments)</b>
<b>TAXATION</b>	Congress could not tax; Only <i>REQUEST</i> contributions	<b>→</b>	<b>Congress was given the power to levy and collect taxes</b>
<b>TRADE (COMMERCE)</b>	Congress could not regulate interstate trade/foreign commerce	<b>→</b>	<b>Congress given power to regulate commerce and foreign trade</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE BRANCH</b>	No separate executive to enforce the acts of Congress	<b>→</b>	<b>Article II created a separate executive department whose job is to enforce the laws of Congress</b>
<b>JUDICIAL BRANCH</b>	No national judiciary to handle state disputes	<b>→</b>	<b>Article III created a national judiciary with a Supreme Court and lower courts as established by Congress</b>
<b>COIN MONEY</b>	States and national gov't had the authority to coin money	<b>→</b>	<b>Only Congress has the power to coin money</b>
<b>REPRESENTED IN CONGRESS</b>	Each state had one vote, regardless of size or population	<b>→</b>	<b>States are represented based on population in the House of Representatives and equality in the Senate</b>
<b>PASSING LAWS</b>	Nine of 13 states required to pass legislation	<b>→</b>	<b>Bills need a simple majority in both houses of Congress</b>
<b>AMENDING THE DOCUMENT</b>	Unanimous consent required to amend the Articles of Confederation	<b>→</b>	<b>Two-thirds of Congress and three-fourths of the states are necessary to amend the Constitution</b>